

Expansion of Late Night Program

Funding

Expansion funded with \$450,000 from Green Sheet 83-1-A-1

Overall funding for Late Night Program is \$796,493 (including \$450,000 from Green Sheet)

Agency

YWCA

Model

Homeless families are immediately connected with hotel/motel vouchers or basic shelter as well as other essential hygiene and nutritional needs. The expanded program operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Families are referred to Late Night through Family Housing Connection and from the following community partners: Kids Plus, staff from the encampments, staff from the Road to Housing car camping program at Compass Housing Alliance, Seattle Police Department, Seattle Public Schools and Child Protective Services. One new referral source was added in 2014: Bianca's Place.

Families are also connected to mainstream resources. Early in the process, the family is assessed to see if it is possible to divert them from homelessness, through mediation with friends or family who may be able to offer housing, and through flexible funding that can be used to help families return home when safe and appropriate to do so.

Progressive Engagement

The Late Night program uses progressive engagement as an effective case management strategy. With progressive engagement, after assessing and interviewing families to determine their strengths and barriers to housing, the smallest amount of assistance needed is offered to stabilize the family, with the understanding that more assistance will be provided if needed.

In the Late Night program, staff assesses each family to determine if they can identify an alternative to entering or remaining in the homelessness system. If the family does have resources, such as extended family members, friends or other housing possibilities, Late Night staff utilizes flexible funding to assist the family (see **Flexible Funding** below for more information).

Progressive engagement keeps programs focused on each family's unique situation, which results in resources being allocated where they are needed, rather than assigning all families the same amount of assistance. Progressive engagement, combined with flexible funding, empowers case managers and families to strategize together to come up with solutions.

Flexible Funding

Flexible funding for families is utilized in the Late Night program. Having flexible funding available allows case managers to work with families to develop creative solutions to move them out of homelessness, and is an important part of progressive engagement. The expanded model allows YWCA staff to engage families immediately and work with them; many are able to be connected with friends and extended family and do not need to enter the homeless services system at all.

Attachment 3

Data as of 8/29/14:

- 156 families placed in hotels/motels
- 39 families currently in hotel/motels
- 34 families exited to permanent housing
- 22 families have accessed flexible client assistance funding since it was added to the contract in June.
- Activities flexible funding has supported: landlord application and screening fees, security deposits, first month's rent, utilities, housing/eviction debt mitigation, work clothing, vouchers for basic household furniture and items, identification, moving costs.